



John Michael Coats

April 6, 1949 - July 16, 2025

John Michael Coats, beloved friend, musician, and lifelong member of Pete Fountain's Half-Fast Walking Club, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 16th, at 10:32 AM in Houston, Texas.

Born with an extraordinary wit and irreverent sense of humor, John made friends effortlessly and maintained them fiercely. Known for his intelligence, extensive reading, sharp comedic timing, and impeccable style, he was affectionately dubbed "Mr. GQ" by many who knew him in his prime.

An accomplished jazz drummer, John's passion for music shone brightly. He was especially remembered for his unforgettable performances and his enthusiastic membership in Pete Fountain's Half-Fast Walking Club, one of Mardi Gras's most entertaining crews.

John's friendships were enduring, exemplified by the lifelong bond shared with his best friend and confidant, Neil Caldwell, whom he met in June 1990. Their friendship, rooted in shared humor and countless memories, was so close they served as best man at each other's weddings, both officiated by their dear friend, the late Janet Carroll.

John is survived by his sister Mary Kay Snyder and nephew Paul Zonis.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate John's vibrant life and legacy at a memorial service on August 9 at 11 AM at Holy Spirit Church on Perthshire Road in Houston. Attendees will fondly recall his legendary rendition of "Fiddler on the Roof," and experience the humorous, risqué musical selections of Jizzum Johnny and The Jazz Balls, capturing the irrepressible spirit John embodied.

Please share your cherished memories and stories of John here, honoring the remarkable man who brought joy, laughter, and rhythm into the lives of everyone he touched.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
12535 Perthshire Road
Houston, TX 77024